

Reflection on June MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that
the Holy Eucharist may nourish our souls and make us bearers of hope
and instruments of mercy.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Col 3:1).

St. Maximilian Kolbe stated that *"the Eucharist is the strength of the soul"* (KW 982) because he experienced it in his own life. The real presence of Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament was the source of his vigor and of the vitality of his love for Christ. This inexhaustible Gift prevented him to be discouraged in the battle for winning the whole world for Christ through the Immaculata. From the Holy Eucharist our Saint learned that charity and self-giving which characterized his interactions with every person he met during his 47 years of life. Remarkably, in Auschwitz not only did he share the little he had but ultimately offered his very life to save another prisoner from death by starvation. Truly, like Christ, he demonstrated the "greatest love."

Echoing St. Paul's words, "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20), St. Maximilian came to conform himself to the Lord Jesus in His unconditional love. Through a real mystical intimacy with the Immaculata, he reached such a union with God and love for souls that he wished to spend himself completely to make the Sacred Heart of Jesus known and loved by everyone through the Immaculata. He noted, *"Holy Communion is nourishment. One single Holy Communion is enough to make one holy. It all depends on inner dispositions, on preparation. Half a day dedicated to preparation, the other half to giving thanks"* (KW 968).

He understood so profoundly the importance of the Eucharist that maintained that half a day should be dedicated to prepare oneself and the other half to give thanks! He believed that the proper dispositions allowed the Blessed Sacrament to work effectively in one's life. Witnesses testified that he would spend at least 20 minutes before the Blessed Sacrament after Mass. Those who lived with him saw him frequently in silent adoration before the tabernacle so as to keep company with the Eucharistic Lord at different times throughout the day.

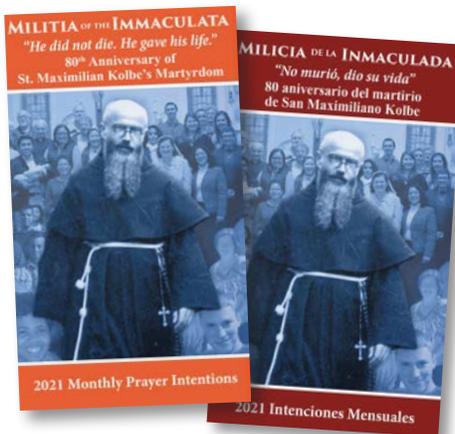
What he experienced he eagerly shared by his example with others.

St. Kolbe dedicated his life to awaken the love of Christ in the hearts of people and grasped deeply the mystery of Divine Love manifested in the Eucharist: *"The purpose of creation, the purpose of man is the love of God, Creator and Father; an ever greater love,... union with God, a fruitful love. So that the love toward the Father could become even more perfect, infinitely more perfect, the love of the Son Jesus was manifested. He came down to earth, died on the Cross and has remained in the Eucharist, in order to awaken love toward Himself in our hearts"* (KW 1326).

Inspired the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, St. Maximilian composed a marvelous prayer of praise and thanksgiving, *"You remain upon this miserable world in the Most Holy and exceedingly admirable Sacrament of the altar, and now You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me as nourishment... Now, Your Blood already flows into mine, Your Soul, O incarnate God, penetrates my soul, strengthening and nourishing it"* (KW 1145).

May the Lord make us able to let the words of Jesus, the teaching of the Apostles and the example of St. Maximilian lead us to appreciate, adore and live deeply the Most Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Sebastiano B. Quaglio, OFM Conv.



**2021 MI Intentions leaflets
are available in English and Spanish.**

**Request them from
the MI National Office.**

Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

(Prayer composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe)

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.

If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: "She will crush your head," and, "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the world."

Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed Kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter, you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

V. Allow me to praise you, O sacred Virgin.

R. Give me strength against your enemies.